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### Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

### Listing of Claims

1-3. (Cancelled)

4. (Previously presented) A method of determining the likelihood of progression of a multiple myeloma-related plasmaproliferative disorder in an individual to multiple myeloma, said method comprising:

- (a) providing a first bone marrow preparation supernatant from said individual diagnosed with a multiple myeloma-related plasmaproliferative disorder and a second bone marrow preparation supernatant from a normal individual; and
- (b) quantitating the amount of IL-6 produced by stromal cells cultured with said first bone marrow preparation supernatant and the amount of IL-6 produced by stromal cells cultured with said second bone marrow preparation supernatant, wherein progression to multiple myeloma is indicated if said amount of IL-6 produced by stromal cells cultured with said first bone marrow preparation supernatant is greater than said amount of IL-6 produced by stromal cells cultured with said second bone marrow preparation supernatant, and wherein progression to multiple myeloma is not indicated if said amount of IL-6 produced by stromal cells cultured with said first bone marrow preparation supernatant is less than or similar to said amount of IL-6 produced by stromal cells cultured with said second bone marrow preparation supernatant.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4, wherein said multiple myeloma-related plasmaproliferative disorder in said individual is smoldering multiple myeloma.

6-7. (Cancelled)

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4, wherein said first bone marrow preparation supernatant is a fresh supernatant from cultured bone marrow cells from said individual diagnosed with a multiple myeloma-related plasmaproliferative disorder.